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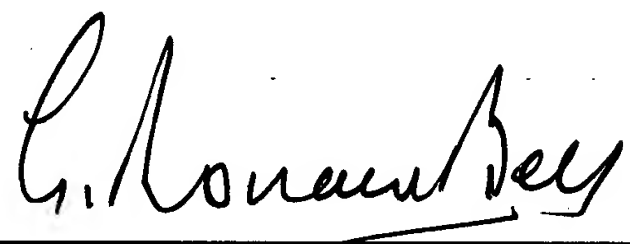
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encloses an Affidavit of prior invention to establish invention of the subject matter of the rejected claims prior to the filing date of the Ghera et al reference.

It is respectfully submitted that in light of the above-mentioned Affidavit, claims 1-4, 6-10 and 12-18, as well as the other claims on file, are patentable.

It is believed that the application is now in condition for allowance and early action in that respect is courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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